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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY **East Germany**

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT **New Grades, Rank Insignia and Uniforms of the Volkspolizei**

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that the new uniforms will be similar in color and cut to the Soviet Army uniforms. Service colors will also be patterned after the Soviet pattern. 1

2. The new ranks and rank insignia are partly borrowed from the former German Armed Forces and partly from the Soviet Army. There are four groups of ranks, i.e. the group of E1 and NCOs; the group of junior officers; the group of field grade officers; and the group of generals. 2

- 25X1 1. **Comment.** The administration for construction projects is assigned to the Bureau for Economic Affairs which, in early September, moved to the building vacated by the Ministry for National Forces, when the latter moved to Schneller Strasse. The official designation for the armed forces in East Germany is still Kasernierte Volkspolizei (KVP).

- 25X1 2. **Comment.** For tabulation of ranks and rank insignia, see Annex. The highest VP rank observed to date was that of Generalinspekteur which corresponded to that of a lieutenant general. The existence of the rank of colonel general and army general is reported for the first time.

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

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Annex

Ranks and Rank Insignia of the Volkspolizei1. EM and NCOs.

Private	Epaullets without insignia.
Private 1st class	Epaullets with one silver cross bar.
Corporal	A silver-border across the top and sides of the epaullets.
Sergeant	Silver-bordered epaullets with one star.
Master sergeant	Silver-bordered epaullets with two stars.
First sergeant	Silver-bordered epaullets with two stars; and silver stripes, 16mm wide, around the cuff of the sleeves.
Officer candidates serving their first year	Epaullets of corporal with the letter A.
Officer candidates serving their second year	Epaullets of a sergeant without stars, but the letter A. The caps and collar patches of junior officers are worn.

2. Junior Officers.

Junior lieutenant	Silver epaullets with one star.
Lieutenant	Silver epaullets with two stars.
Senior lieutenant	Silver epaullets with three stars.
Captain	Silver epaullets with four stars.

3. Field Grade Officers.

Major	Silver-braided epaullets with one star.
Lieutenant colonel	Silver-braided epaullets with two stars.
Colonel	Silver-braided epaullets with three stars.

4. Generals.

Major general	Gold-braided epaullets with one silver star.
Lieutenant general	Gold-braided epaullets with two silver stars.
Colonel general	Gold-braided epaullets with three silver stars.
Army general	Gold-braided epaullets with four silver stars.

Generals also wear a cluster of oak leaves on the collar, golden hat cords, red lapels on their overcoats and wide red stripes on the outer seams of their trousers.

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